

only during National Family Caregivers Month, but every day, and embrace those commonsense solutions like this one.

So in honor of my parents, I would like to say that many of us across the country who are dealing with this have so much heartache and so much difficulty and so much difficult decisions that I am always trying to seek the best way to try to help those families who are going down that path.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, in honor of the parents—and so many others—of Senator CAPITO, I thank her for her empathetic, compassionate remarks. We all have had friends and family who have suffered, and her remarks are really appropriate.

So thank you for that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote take place immediately after my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR TO S. 3076

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that Senator OSSOFF of Georgia be added as a cosponsor of S. 3076, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, not a unanimous consent request, but I note that joining me on the floor today is Ben Ashman, for whom we have given consent to be on the floor as a Senate fellow in our office for the year.

NOMINATION OF GRAHAM SCOTT STEELE

Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues for the upcoming vote to join me in supporting Graham Steele, the President's nominee for Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions at the Department of Treasury.

Graham is my friend. Graham is a former staff member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and was a stellar—was and is a stellar public servant.

I know from personal experience how ready Mr. Steele is for this job. Graham spent 7 years in my personal Senate office and on the Senate Banking and Housing Committee staff when I became ranking member.

He was a senior trusted aide. He worked with staff of so many of my colleagues from both parties. In a Senate that is, frankly, too divided and a Senate that is too rigid in its partisanship, five Republicans on the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee joined in supporting Graham Steele when we voted him out of committee a month or so ago, and that is because of his relationships, because of his honesty.

He has extensive financial services experience, a track record of bipartisanship, and a history to make our system work for everyone. He understands the far-reaching effects the financial system has on workers and their families.

Throughout his career, Graham has forged close relationships with civil rights groups; with consumer advocates; and with organizations, like the bipartisan Ohio Bankers League that wrote in support of his nomination.

He stood up for families, for communities, for Main Street businesses against Wall Street greed and corruption. He has worked across the aisle to get things done for the American people.

As minority chief counsel for the Banking and Housing Committee, and as my staff director of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, he crafted legislation, he worked with other offices, he worked with community banks, and he fought to protect all Americans' finances.

He worked on a broad set of issues with two Republican chairs, Senator CRAPO of Idaho and Senator SHELBY of Alabama. He worked with their staffs, worked with people on both sides of the aisle.

He did vital work during and after the 2008 financial crisis, as we worked to stabilize our financial system.

In his work for our office, he traveled around Ohio in the years that followed. He talked to Ohioans who had lost their homes and saw their communities devastated by Wall Street's—and I underscore "Wall Street's"—great recession. Wall Street didn't experience much of the recession; Wall Street caused the recession. I make that clear.

He understands the importance of listening to workers. He understands how the financial industry affects their lives every day.

He has put results for Americans above partisanship. He worked with Senator Johanns, a Republican from Nebraska, who has since retired. He worked with Senator COLLINS, a Republican from Maine, on an important fix to insurance regulations. He worked with Senator MORAN of Kansas on innovative ways to encourage families to increase savings.

In his current role at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Graham researches important issues at the intersection of markets and business and government, looking at ways to promote a more accountable economy.

At Treasury, Graham Steele would oversee an office that plays a pivotal role in coordinating the Department's efforts on financial institution policy, community and economic development, insurance, and cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protections.

He would lead an office that oversees the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, CDFI.

His qualifications and his experience are obvious. Graham and the staff of many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can attest to his commitment to service and the ability to find common ground—something that will serve him well at Treasury working with Secretary Yellen and will serve this body and our government well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the nomination of Graham Steele. He will serve admirably, I am sure of that. I can think of no better person to serve in this role at this very consequential time in our Nation's history.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON STEELE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Steele nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 467 Ex.]

YEAS—53

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hickenlooper | Romney |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Rosen |
| Booker | Kaine | Rounds |
| Brown | Kelly | Sanders |
| Cantwell | King | Schatz |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Carper | Leahy | Scott (SC) |
| Casey | Lujan | Sinema |
| Collins | Manchin | Smith |
| Coons | Menendez | Stabenow |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Tester |
| Crapo | Moran | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warner |
| Durbin | Murray | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Wyden |
| Graham | Peters | |

NAYS—42

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Paul |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Portman |
| Blunt | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Rubio |
| Braun | Hoeben | Sasse |
| Burr | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Capito | Johnson | Shelby |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Sullivan |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Thune |
| Cotton | Lee | Tillis |
| Cramer | Lummis | Toomey |
| Cruz | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Daines | McConnell | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Young |

NOT VOTING—5

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------|
| Hassan | Markey | Warren |
| Inhofe | Shaheen | |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 345, Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 468 Ex.]

YEAS—75

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Grassley | Portman |
| Blumenthal | Heinrich | Reed |
| Blunt | Hickenlooper | Risch |
| Booker | Hirono | Romney |
| Boozman | Hoeven | Rosen |
| Brown | Hyde-Smith | Rounds |
| Burr | Johnson | Sanders |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schatz |
| Capito | Kelly | Schumer |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Carper | King | Sinema |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Smith |
| Collins | Leahy | Stabenow |
| Coons | Lujan | Tester |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Thune |
| Cortez Masto | Marshall | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Toomey |
| Daines | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Moran | Warnock |
| Ernst | Murphy | Whitehouse |
| Feinstein | Murray | Wicker |
| Fischer | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Gillibrand | Padilla | Young |

NAYS—20

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Barrasso | Hagerty | Rubio |
| Blackburn | Hawley | Sasse |
| Braun | Lankford | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton | Lummis | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Murkowski | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Paul | |

NOT VOTING—5

| | | |
|--------|---------|--------|
| Hassan | Markey | Warren |
| Inhofe | Shaheen | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 463, the nomination of Brian Nelson to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, and the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act, occur at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, Wednesday, November 17; that if cloture is invoked on the Nelson nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader; and finally, that at 5 p.m. today, the Senate execute the previous order with respect to the Kanter nomination to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. SINEMA. For the information of the Senate, in addition to the previously scheduled vote on confirmation of the Bonnie nomination at 2:30 p.m. today, there will be a vote on confirmation of the Kanter nomination at approximately 5:15 p.m., and tomorrow at approximately 10 a.m., there will be two rollcall votes. Those votes will be on cloture on the Nelson nomination and cloture on the motion to proceed to the National Defense Authorization Act.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:01 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT FARRELL BONNIE

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Robert Bonnie's confirmation as Under Secretary of Farm Production and Conservation at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

If confirmed, Mr. Bonnie will oversee three Agencies at the USDA that are absolutely critical to the well-being of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and

to our shared goal of addressing the climate crisis.

Taken together, the Farm Service Agency, the National Resources Conservation Service, and Risk Management Agency provide the first line of defense for our farmers and ranchers against droughts and floods and wildfires and other extreme weather.

These Agencies will also lead our efforts to provide voluntary solutions to help our farmers and ranchers lead the way in addressing the climate crisis.

In my home State of Michigan and across the Nation, producers are facing unseasonable freezes and thaws and dramatically unpredictable conditions that disrupt the planning and harvesting schedules they rely on for their livelihoods and for our food supply. As the climate crisis affects the way the agriculture sector operates, the work of the USDA and its staff to provide resources and knowledge for our farmers and ranchers is absolutely critical.

Without crop insurance, without disaster assistance, without our conservation programs, our farmers and ranchers will be left even more vulnerable. That is why we need competent, experienced leaders who are ready to lead these Agencies from day one.

Leading this mission area is a big responsibility but one that I know Mr. Bonnie is well-qualified to tackle. Throughout his career, Mr. Bonnie has built strong partnerships with farmers, with ranchers, with foresters, with communities.

This is also his second time leading a mission area at USDA as he was confirmed by voice vote as Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment in the Obama administration. There, he oversaw key public-private partnerships with foresters and private land owners, while leading the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

While working at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at Duke University, Mr. Bonnie worked closely with rural communities to tackle pressing conservation issues.

And at the Environmental Defense Fund, Mr. Bonnie focused on incentive-based approaches to promote stewardship on private lands.

At his hearing in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Democratic and Republican members alike praised Mr. Bonnie's extensive credentials and his commitment to tackling the climate crisis and boosting farm income at the same time.

That approach has earned him the support of many, many of the Nation's most respected farm and food organizations, including the American Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Union.

I am pleased to add my support to his nomination and urge my colleagues to vote yes on this extremely well-qualified nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum unless we—are we at a point to move forward on the vote?